IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for registering complaints against communication initiators, the method comprising:

(a)   receiving a signaling message from a communication initiator relating to a communication from the communication initiator; [[and]]

(b)   extracting a ~~parameter~~ calling party identifier from the signaling message and determining whether the communication is from a communication initiator with whom ~~communication is not desired~~ an intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate; [[and]]

(c)   in response to determining that the communication is from a communication initiator with whom ~~communication is not desired~~ the intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate, automatically generating, from a user communications terminal or a service switching point (SSP) ~~to which the communication from the communication initiator is directed~~, a complaint registration message identifying the communication initiator using ~~identifying information~~ the calling party identifier extracted from the signaling message and transmitting the complaint registration message over a data network; ~~to a complaint registration server~~

wherein step (b) includes providing a complaint registration application comprising at least one of hardware and software for determining whether the communication is from a communication initiator with whom the intended

-2-

communication recipient does not desire to communicate based on a trigger initiated by the intended communication recipient; and

wherein step (c) includes providing a complaint message generator, the complaint message generator comprising at least one of hardware and software for generating the complaint registration message in response to the determination that the communication is from a communication initiator with whom the intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate and transmitting the complaint registration message over the data network.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication [[is]] comprises a short message service (SMS) message.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication [[is]] comprises a voice telephone call.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication [[is]] comprises a facsimile message.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~parameter is~~ calling party identifier extracted from the signaling message comprises a telephone number for the communication initiator.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the [[call]] signaling message [[is]] comprises a mobile call signaling message and wherein the ~~parameter is~~ calling party identifier comprises a mobile identification number for the communication initiator.

8.   (Canceled)

-3-

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising, at the complaint registration server, in response to receiving the complaint registration message, performing a lookup in a complaint registration database to determine whether the communication initiator is a repeat offender.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 comprising, at the complaint registration database, in response to identifying the communication initiator as a repeat offender, generating a violation notification message in response to the complaint registration message.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 comprising transmitting the violation notification message to an enforcement agency.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein transmitting the violation notification message to an enforcement agency includes transmitting the violation notification message to an enforcement agency local to the communication initiator.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein transmitting the violation notification message to an enforcement agency includes transmitting the violation notification message to a government agency.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising, in response to receiving the signaling message, notifying the communication initiator that no further communication with the intended communication recipient is to be attempted, wherein notifying the communication initiator that no further communication with the intended communication recipient is to be attempted includes providing a

-4-

<u>recorded message buffer comprising at least one of a hardware, software, and firmware for playing a pre-recorded message to the communication initiator that no further communication with the intended communication recipient is to be attempted.</u>

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15 including notifying the communication initiator that the complaint registration message is being sent to a complaint registration database.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a signaling message from a communication initiator includes receiving a session initiation protocol (SIP) message at a SIP phone.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the SIP message [[is]] <u>comprises</u> an Invite message.

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein extracting a parameter from the signaling message includes extracting a parameter from the From field of the Invite message for identifying the communication initiator.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method for automatically generating a complaint registration message in response to receiving a signaling message relating to a communication from a communication initiator with whom communication is not desired, the method comprising:

at a user communications terminal associated with a communication recipient:

(a)   receiving a signaling message from a communication initiator relating to a communication from the initiator;

-5-

(b)   determining, based on a ~~parameter~~ <u>calling party identifier</u> in the signaling message, whether the communication initiator has previously been notified not to initiate communications with the communication recipient<u>;</u> and

(c)   in response to determining that the communication initiator has been previously notified not to initiate communications with the communication recipient, automatically generating, based on the signaling message, a complaint registration message including ~~information extracted from the~~ ~~signaling message for identifying the communication initiator~~ <u>the calling</u> <u>party identifier</u> and transmitting the complaint registration message [[to]] <u>over</u> a ~~complaint registration server~~ <u>data network;</u>

<u>wherein step (b) includes providing a blocking table listing calling party identifiers</u> <u>of communication initiators who have been previously notified not to initiate</u> <u>communications with the communication recipient and a complaint registration</u> <u>application comprising at least one of hardware and software residing on the user</u> <u>communications terminal for determining whether the communication initiator has</u> <u>been previously notified not to initiate communications with the communication</u> <u>recipient based on the presence of the calling party identifier in the blocking</u> <u>table; and</u>

<u>wherein step (c) includes providing a complaint message generator comprising at</u> <u>least one of hardware and software residing on the user communications</u> <u>terminal for automatically generating the complaint registration message in</u> <u>response to the determination that the communication initiator has been</u>

previously notified not to initiate communications with the communication
recipient and transmitting the complaint registration message over the data
network.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 comprising, at [[the]] a complaint
registration server, receiving the complaint registration message, performing a
lookup in a complaint registration database using the identifying Information from
the complaint registration message to determine whether the communication
initiator is a repeat offender.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 comprising, at the complaint
registration server, in response to determining that the communication initiator is
a repeat offender, generating a violation message and transmitting the violation
message to an enforcement authority.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving a signaling
message at a communication recipient terminal includes receiving a session
initiation protocol (SIP) message at a SIP phone.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein generating the complaint registration
message comprises generating the complaint registration message at the SIP
phone.

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the SIP message [[is]]
comprises an Invite message and the parameter is a calling party identifier in a
From field of the Invite message.

26.   (Currently Amended) A system for registering a complaint against a
communications initiator, the system comprising:

-7-

(a)   a communications terminal adapted to receive communications and
       signaling messages associated with the communications from
       communications initiators, wherein the communications terminal is
       adapted to determine whether the communication is from a
       communications initiator with whom ~~communication is not desired~~ an
       intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate, and
       wherein, in response to determining that the communication is from a
       communications initiator with whom ~~communication is not desired~~ an
       intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate, the
       communication terminal is adapted to generate and forward a complaint
       registration message ~~to a complaint registration server~~ over a data
       network, the complaint registration message including information
       extracted from one of the signaling messages for identifying the
       communications initiator; and

(b)   a complaint registration server operatively associated with the
       communications terminal for receiving and processing the complaint
       registration message;

wherein the communications terminal includes a complaint registration
application comprising at least one of hardware and software for determining
whether the communication is from a communications initiator with whom an
intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate; and

wherein the communication terminal further includes a complaint message
generator comprising at least one of hardware and software for automatically

-8-

generating the complaint registration message and forwarding the complaint registration message over the data network.

27.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the communication terminal [[is]] comprises a session initiation protocol (SIP)-capable phone.

28.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the communications terminal [[is]] comprises a personal computer.

29.   (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein the complaint registration message is based on information contained in a calling party call setup signaling message.

30.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the complaint registration message [[is]] comprises a SIP message.

31.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the complaint registration server is adapted to generate a violation notification message.

32.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the complaint registration server is adapted to send the violation notification message to a third party.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the third party is a government agency.

34.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the ~~communications terminal~~ complaint message generator is adapted to generate a complaint registration message in response to a ~~manual or user-initiated~~ trigger initiated by the intended communication recipient.

35.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26 wherein the communications terminal includes a call blocking database that is adapted to store identification

-9-

Serial No.: 09/721,287

information related to a calling party that has been notified that communication with the ~~called party~~ intended communication recipient is not desired.

36.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35 wherein the ~~communications terminal~~ complaint message generator is adapted to generate the complaint registration message automatically in response to determining that an entry exists for the calling party in the call blocking database.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving a signaling message includes receiving an IP telephony call signaling message.

38.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein transmitting the complaint registration message ~~to a complaint registration server~~ over a data network includes transmitting the message to a complaint registration server storing previously-registered complaints indexed by at least one of called and calling party identifiers.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein receiving a signaling message includes receiving an IP telephony call signaling message.

40.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein transmitting the complaint registration message ~~to a complaint registration server~~ over a data network includes sending the message to a complaint registration server storing previously-registered complaints indexed by at least one of called and calling party identifiers.

41.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the communications terminal comprises an IP telephony communications terminal.

-10-

Serial No.: 09/721,287

42.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein the complaint registration server is adapted to store previously registered complaints indexed by at least one of called and calling party identification information.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) is performed by the communications terminal.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) is performed by the SSP.

45.   (Currently Amended)   A computer program product comprising computer executable instructions embodied in a computer readable medium for performing steps comprising:

(a)   receiving a signaling message associated with a communication from a communications initiator;

(b)   extracting information for identifying the communications initiator from the signaling message;

(c)   performing a lookup in a table to determine whether to allow the communication to be completed;

(d)   in response to failing to locate an entry in the table, allowing the communication to be completed;

(e)   determining whether a manual trigger has been generated by a user communications terminal to which the communication is directed; and

(f)   in response to determining that a manual trigger has been generated by the user communications terminal, <u>automatically</u> generating a complaint registration message from at least one of the user communications

-11-

terminal and a service switching point (SSP) with which the user communications terminal is currently associated, and transmitting the complaint registration message ~~to a complaint registration server~~ <u>over a data network</u>.

46.   (Currently Amended) A ~~complaint registration server~~ <u>computer program product</u> comprising computer executable instructions embodied in a computer readable medium for performing steps comprising:

    (a)   receiving complaint registration messages generated by at least one of user telephony communications terminals and telephony end offices in response to unwanted communications directed to the communications terminals;

    (b)   extracting communication initiator identifying information from one of the complaint registration messages;

    (c)   performing a lookup in a complaint registration database and determining whether a match is present in the complaint registration database; and

    (d)   in response to determining that a match is present in the complaint registration database, identifying the communication initiator as a repeat offender and generating and forwarding a violation message to an enforcement agency.

47.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the complaint message generator is local to the complaint registration application.

48.   (New) The method of claim 20 wherein the complaint message generator is local to the complaint registration application.

-12-

49.   (New) The system of claim 26 wherein the complaint message generator is local

to the complaint registration application.

50.   (New) A method for automatically registering complaints against communication

initiators, the method comprising:

(a)   receiving a signaling message from a communication initiator relating to a

communication from the communication initiator;

(b)   extracting a calling party identifier from the signaling message and

determining whether the communication is from a communication initiator

with whom an intended communication recipient does not desire to

communicate; and

(c)   in response to determining that the communication is from a

communication initiator with whom the intended communication recipient

does not desire to communicate, automatically generating, from a user

communications terminal or a service switching point (SSP), a complaint

registration message identifying the communication initiator using the

calling party identifier extracted from the signaling message and

transmitting the complaint registration message over a data network;

wherein step (b) includes storing a blocking table including calling party

identifiers identifying calling parties with whom the intended communication

recipient does not desire to communicate and providing a complaint registration

application comprising at least one of hardware and software for accessing the

blocking table using the calling party identifier extracted from the signaling

message to determine whether the communication is from a communication

-13-

initiator with whom the intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate; and

wherein step (c) includes providing a complaint message generator comprising at least one of hardware and software for generating the complaint registration message in response to the determination that the communication is from a communication initiator with whom the intended communication recipient does not desire to communicate and transmitting the complaint registration message over a data network.

-14-